

give up a little bit of freedom for a little bit of security, that we would have neither.

As Americans, we value our freedoms. We value the freedom of speech, we value our freedom of privacy, we value the protections that we have against unnecessary search and seizure. But as Americans we also know that things have changed.

I do not think there is a parent or grandparent in America today that would tell you that their lives today are what they were when they were children. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, when I have my grandchildren with me, they have very little freedom, and that I never take my eye off of them because we do live in a different day and a different time, and the securities that we felt as children just do not exist today.

As I drove home last week and I was stuck in traffic, which we all know is certainly a reoccurring thing in our society, but I was listening to a radio program about the PATRIOT Act. What really concerned me about what Americans are being told is that Americans are being told that somehow this is onerous, that we have done the PATRIOT Act, and that our freedoms are being impacted in this act.

What Americans are not being told is that the same provisions that exist in this act have been in place for many years in regards to criminal cases, in regards to child pornography, in regards to drug offenses, in regards to mob bosses.

What the PATRIOT Act did is added foreign terrorism into the same types of provisions that already exist. The PATRIOT Act also broke down walls to allow law enforcement officials to interact together and to make sure that information is being shared and that we as Americans are as safe as we can possibly be. I think that is an important element of the PATRIOT Act, is that it is not new. It is existing law enforcement that has been extended over.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is only fair to remind people that there are additional requirements that are placed in the PATRIOT Act on the provision of foreign terrorism. What some of those provisions are is that under the criminal code, law enforcement gets grand jury permission in order to do what they are doing. Under the PATRIOT Act, that required the permission of a Federal judge. With the amendments that we did Thursday night in regards to the one the American people talked about the most called the "library provision," or what we referred to as section 215, which would allow them to check books and records, now it will require that the Director of the FBI make that request to a Federal judge. So to imply to the American people that someone is checking what books we check out is just unfair, and it is unfair to all of us who do expect to put some safety and some security back into our lives and to the lives of our children.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing else we can do except to really explain what is the PATRIOT Act, how does it keep us safer and how does it interact with our other criminal codes.

I would like to also point out that the "library act," as it is called, has been used many times in regards to the criminal code, but it has not once been used in regards to foreign terrorism. Is it something we should take away? No, absolutely not, because why should we tie the hands of our law enforcement professionals on one area that is so critical to us when this exists in other provisions of the law?

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the House of Representatives for reauthorizing the PATRIOT Act. I was a little distressed that we put additional requirements in place, but if that is what it takes for people to feel safe and secure, all right. But the most important thing is I think the public should know the truth. They should know how the PATRIOT Act is protecting them and defending them and not impacting their freedoms.

FINDING GOOD NEWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, sometimes I get tired of all the bad news. You come here and you listen to the speeches that go before the House and you think, my goodness gracious, there must be all sorts of bad news out there.

When I go home and I talk to constituents at home about any issue, I often lead off with saying, "I am going to have to tell you some things that you haven't seen on television and that you haven't read in the newspaper," because the good news, the good news that is happening here, oftentimes gets smothered with all the bad news and all the political sniping that goes on.

I was pleased to hear the gentleman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) just now get up and demonstrate her passion, her passion, for principles that we hold dear here in the United States. I was also wonderfully pleased to hear the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) earlier talk about the importance of health care and Health Savings Accounts, an exciting proposal, an exciting policy that we have here, that we have adopted in the Congress, that will allow individuals greater choice in health care. That is good news. That is good news.

When I read my local paper, I have got to get way down in that paper before I see good news. In terms of politics, all you see is who is fighting whom and what will not happen. It is remarkable.

So I am here to talk about a little good news today, because we have good news that we need to spread across this Nation.

There has been a remarkable turnaround in this Nation's economy. The policies that this Congress have adopted have helped our Nation recover from attacks at home, recover from corporate scandals, recover from the bursting of the tech bubble and the incredible demands that we have facing us as a Nation in the War on Terror. These are real challenges, incredible challenges, but we are a strong and a vibrant and a resourceful Nation, and we can overcome these challenges, and, frankly, any other that folks throw in our way.

But what are the principles that are guiding us? Strong, common sense, conservative principles that foster entrepreneurship and almost guarantee success. These are the true engines, entrepreneurship, of job growth and strength in our economy.

From tax relief, to a responsible decrease in areas of our Federal budget, this Republican major is leading the way with a return to fiscal discipline and economic growth as our guideline. And what are the results? What are the results? There used to be somebody on television that said, "Let's go the videotape." Here we say, "Let's go to the chart."

Look at this chart. This is May 2003 and these are the number of jobs that have been created in this Nation. May 2003. And look where we are in June 2005. It is a steady increase in growth in the number of jobs. That is exciting news. That is good news. Have you seen it in your newspaper? Have you heard about it on television or on the radio? Probably not. But that is good news, and it is good news that is happening because of the policies that this Congress has adopted.

More Americans are working now than ever before. More Americans are working than ever before in our Nation's history. Nearly 4 million jobs have been created over the past 2 years. The economy has had job growth, more job growth, 24 straight months. Look at that, 24 straight months. That is good news.

Unemployment is at 5 percent. Say, what is that? Well, it is lower than the averages for the 1970s, the 1980s and the 1990s. Unemployment is at an all-time low, given the averages over the last three decades. Unemployment is down for all levels of education, all races and all ages. This is great news.

So I ask my colleagues and I ask folks back home when they pick up their newspaper, do not look at the front page; go to page 7 or 8 or 9 or further, and you may find some good news there. Those are the kinds of stories that need to be on the front page.

Mr. Speaker, we in Congress here are going to continue to work in a positive and a confident way, one that is trustful of Americans and one that appreciates and believes in America. I look forward to being joined by my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to further these common sense principles.